



Bud tender Jack Powell at River City Phoenix dispensary measures out cannabis for a customer in Sacramento on Saturday. RANDALL BENTON rbenton@sacbee.com

Recreational pot is now available to buy

BY BRAD BRANAN AND MOLLY SULLIVAN
bbranan@sacbee.com

Maybe you want to participate in the historical moment, the day when the nation's largest producer of cannabis becomes the country's largest legal marijuana market.

Or maybe you just want to nurse a hangover from New Year's Eve with a few tokes.

Whatever your reason, if you're 21 or older, you can legally buy marijuana in Sacramento and other places in California starting Monday. As of Sunday afternoon, seven dispensaries received permits to sell recreational weed in Sacramento, and

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Recreational marijuana sales start but campuses are still off limits. **1B**

their owners raced to prepare for the new landscape.

"Are we ready for what's going to happen? We're not sure," said Phillip Blurton, who owns All About Wellness in midtown Sacramento, which received state approval Saturday. "We don't know if it's going to be a rush of people. We really don't know what to expect. We are fully staffed (Monday), it's all hands on deck."

While California was the first state to legalize medical marijuana in 1996, four states and Washington, D.C., preceded it

as the first places to allow recreational weed for sale. The change means adult Californians no longer need a doctor's recommendation to buy marijuana legally.

"This process has not been easy for anyone. Not for the state, the city, the industry or the medical patients," said Kimberly Cargile, owner of A Therapeutic Alternative in East Sacramento. "But we are getting there and Proposition 64 is now in full effect."

A Therapeutic Alternative became the first dispensary in the city Friday to receive needed state and local permits to sell recreational cannabis. The dispensary will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony 9 a.m. Monday.

All About Wellness was jammed with customers Sunday as medical users tried to get their last purchases before new taxes kick in Monday. There was a line of about 10 people at the counter inside and a steady stream of people coming in and out the front door. Blurton said he's planning to have two lines on Monday: one for patients, the other for recreational buyers.

"It's nice to be one of the first dispensaries in California to have a medical and an adult use recreational license," Blurton said. "Now we just have to be prepared."

California's 2016 legalization vote gave local governments the power to ban sales, making local politics the deciding factor in where retail weed is available. So far, most of the approved retail marijuana shops are in coastal communities and in the Southern California desert.

Before the state released an updated list of approved retail

SEE POT FOR SALE, 2A

Sheriff's deputy killed in Denver shooting; 6 hurt

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN AND ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

DENVER

A man fired more than 100 rounds at sheriff's deputies in Colorado early Sunday, killing one and injuring four others, before being fatally shot himself in what authorities called an ambush. Two civilians were also injured.

Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock said deputies came under fire almost immediately

and were shot "very, very quickly" after entering a suburban Denver apartment and trying to talk with the suspect, who was holed up inside a bedroom.

"They all went down almost within seconds of each other, so it was more of an ambush-type of attack on our officers," Spurlock said. "He knew we were coming and we obviously let him know that we were there."

The Douglas County coroner identified the suspect as 37-

SEE DEPUTY KILLED, 6A



A deadly shooting at the Copper Canyon Apartments in Highlands Ranch, Colo., is investigated Sunday. Five deputies were shot, one fatally, after they responded to a report of a domestic disturbance. MATTHEW STAVIER New York Times

Tax law offers a carrot to gig workers

BY NOAM SCHEIBER
The New York Times

The new tax law is likely to accelerate a hotly disputed trend in the U.S. economy by rewarding workers who sever formal relationships with their employers and become contractors.

Management consultants may soon strike out on their own, and stockbrokers may hang out their own shingle.

More cable repairmen and delivery drivers, some of whom find work through gig economy apps like Uber, may also be lured into contracting arrangements.

That's because a provision in the tax law allows sole proprietors – along with owners of partnerships or other pass-through entities – to deduct 20 percent of their revenue from their taxable income.

The tax savings, which could be around \$15,000 per year for many affluent couples, may prove enticing to workers. "If you're above the median but not at the very, very top, one would think you'd be thinking it through," said David Kamin, a professor of tax law at New York University.

The provision may also turn out to be a boon for employers who are trying to reduce their payroll costs. Workers hired as contractors, who tend to be cheaper, may be less likely to complain about their status under the new tax law.

"Firms currently have a lot of incentives to turn workers into independent contractors," said Lawrence Katz, a labor economist at Harvard. "This reinforces the current trends."

But it could lead to an erosion of the protections that have long been a cornerstone of full-time work.

Formal employment, after all, provides more than just income. Unlike independent contractors, employees have access to unemployment insurance if they lose their jobs and workers' compensation if they are injured at work. They are protected by workplace anti-discrimination laws and have a federally backed right to form a union.

Those protections do not generally apply to contractors. Nor do minimum-wage and overtime laws.

"What you're losing is the safety nets for those workers," said Catherine Ruckelshaus of the National Employment Law Project, an advocacy group.

Traditional full-time jobs

SEE CONTRACTORS, 6A

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